

RMP News

*Andrews Management Unit
Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area*



August 2004

NOW AVAILABLE

The Andrews Management Unit (AMU)/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now available. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Federal Register* Notice announcing the availability of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS begins the 30-day protest period. The EPA's notice will also begin the 30-day comment period on the Proposed Steens Mountain Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) Plan (Volume 3, Appendix U of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS).

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES BETWEEN DRAFT AND PROPOSED RMP

Over 5,000 public comments were received on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. These comments as well as consultation with the Steens Mountain Advisory Council and cooperating agencies resulted in formulation of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. (The Proposed RMP is Alternative D, the Preferred Alternative, in the Draft RMP as revised.) The following are selected major changes:

- ♦ **Special Status Species** - addresses managing domestic sheep and goats in native wild sheep habitat;
- ♦ **Recreation** - develop a Comprehensive Recreation Plan for the CMPA;
- ♦ **Transportation** - CMPA Transportation Plan (TP) developed by December 2005 and AMU TP developed by December 2008;
- ♦ **Lands** - identifies lands for retention containing mule deer winter range, eliminates discussion of County zone changes, and rezones Riddle Brothers Ranch;
- ♦ **Wilderness** - group size changed to 12 persons with 18 head of stock, length-of-stay limit changed to 14 days, percentage change guidelines incorporated;
- ♦ **Wilderness Study Areas** (WSAs) - deletes analysis of inholdings previously acquired within the Mahogany Ridge and Bridge Creek WSAs;

- ♦ **Grazing** - deletes discussion of permit relinquishment.

For a complete list of significant changes between the Draft and Proposed RMP, please see page S-1 of the AMU/Steens Mountain CMPA Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

NEXT STEP

The Final RMP/EIS will consist of two plans and two Records of Decision (RODs) (one for the AMU and one for the CMPA). The RODs are expected to be released winter 2004/2005. The Final Steens Mountain Wilderness and WSRs Plan will also be made available at that time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or to receive a copy of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, please contact:

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<http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns/Planning/AndrewsSteensRMP/RMP.html>



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Andrews Management Unit/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area
Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Update...see inside for:
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